# Annual Report

## April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986

Legal Services Society
of British Columbia

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# Chairman's Report

This has been a year of consolidation for the Legal Services Society. Building on the base developed in previous years, and particularly on the stability achieved in 1984/85, the Society has enjoyed relative harmony in its relationship with its principal funder, the Province of British Columbia.

The Law Foundation granted an unprecedented $3 million towards the Society's operations in the past year. In addition, the Foundation granted another $600,000 requested by the Society in November of 1985 to restore the 12.5 per cent that was cut from the civil and criminal tariffs in 1982.

This extraordinary level of support by the Foundation at a time of uncertain economic conditions was of tremendous assistance to the Society in its effort to maintain the minimum level of service required by law. Moreover, this support allowed the Society to begin to redress the serious inequities in the tariff level, which remains the lowest in Canada.

It must be recognized that the Society is able to provide the current minimum level of service because of the support provided by the legal profession of British Columbia, and by the staff of the Society, the community law offices and other agencies funded by the Society.

The Society recognizes that the majority of the representational services are provided by a relatively small number of lawyers who have continued to accept referrals from the Society under a clearly inadequate tariff. The contribution made by these lawyers to the delivery of public legal services to the people of British Columbia cannot be over-emphasized. Without their continued support, the Society would be unable to meet its obligation to deliver those services.

In addition, the contribution made by the staff and lawyers of the Legal Services Society, the community law offices and other funded agencies is enormous. Increases in demand have impacted first on these people and they have responded in a truly professional manner.

The initiatives begun last year to develop close and effective lines of communication among the Legal Services Society, the Law Society, the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association and the Ministry of Attorney General have continued. The Joint Legal Aid Liaison Committee, composed of representatives of the Legal Services Society, the Law Society of British Columbia and the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association, has met frequently over the past year and has accomplished a great deal.

The expanded pro bono program was organized and implemented by that Committee and has resulted in an increase in non-tariff services to the disadvantaged. The efforts of the Treasurer of the Law Society and the President of the B.C. Branch to successfully persuade a significant number of lawyers to donate their time to the service of the poor must be recognized.

In spite of significant achievements over the past year, there are still substantial difficulties facing the Legal Services Society. Most of the difficulties are related to funding levels. The tariff remains far too low in spite of the restoration of the 12.5 per cent, and bringing the tariff to a reasonable level is a priority of the Society. Eligibility levels as well as coverage require adjustment to reflect changes in economic circumstances and deficiencies in the system.

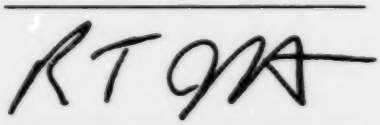
The Law Foundation is clearly unable to maintain the levels of funding reached in 1985/86. At a public forum called by the Foundation in February 1986, representatives of all the beneficiaries of the Foundation grants, some of whom provide services the Legal Services Society recognizes as essential, and some of whom have had funding from the Legal Services Society reduced or frozen, agreed that their own financial health and ability to provide essential services are threatened by the need of the Legal Services Society for a substantial portion of the Law Foundation revenues.

The Foundation grant for 1986/87, representing 50 per cent of the revenues of the Foundation for that period, will be substantially less than what the Foundation was able, by drawing on capital reserves, to grant the Society in 1985/86. This decrease in Law Foundation funding will aggravate the strain on the Society's ability to provide services.

The Society, together with the lawyers in British Columbia acting through the Joint Legal Aid Liaison Committee, will continue to discuss with government the need to put the Society on a rational and stable financial base, a base which would allow for long overdue improvements to the system of payments for services, the methods of delivering service, and staffing and equipment levels.

In addition, improved funding would allow the Society to re-examine its decision to close offices at some centres and to withdraw funding from agencies in other centres. It would also allow the Society to plan for service delivery in areas of the province where identified need for services cannot be met at present.

I cannot close without acknowledging the debt I owe to all of the staff of the Legal Services Society, but particularly to Stephen Owen, Jack Olsen and the senior staff at the Society's head office. Their invaluable assistance and co-operation has made what could have been a particularly difficult year, a challenging and enjoyable one. As well, the support of the Directors of the Society has been much appreciated. If one must live in interesting times, it helps to have friends.



*Robert T.C. Johnston*
*Chairman*

# Executive Director's Report

A society that purports to be governed by the rule of law has an obligation to ensure that all its citizens have access to the resources of the law. While the Legal Services Society has made a major contribution to fulfilling this obligation over the past year, our services are still limited in a number of major respects.

- Absence of representation in contested family matters

  While the Society endeavours to provide service in urgent matters, a large number of financially eligible people must appear in court unrepresented in family matters, even when the spouse on the other side of the action is represented by counsel.

- Inadequate Legal Services Society tariff for private counsel

  The tariff continues to be the lowest legal aid tariff in Canada for many services. This has serious implications for clients, including the refusal by some experienced lawyers to accept serious cases which require their particular levels of skill, and the acceptance of legal aid cases by lawyers who are not able to afford sufficient time for the preparation of the case.

  In addition, inadequate representation can lead to significant waste within the justice system because of inefficient use of court, police and prosecutorial resources.

- Narrow eligibility criteria

  In most cases, legal aid cannot be granted unless a person's income falls below the poverty line as set by Statistics Canada. The result of this is that persons who urgently need legal aid are ineligible for assistance even though their financial resources fall far short of allowing them to pay for the services of a lawyer privately.

- Absence of a full-time office in some large communities

  For financial reasons, legal aid offices were closed in a number of communities in 1982 and 1983, and the Society has not had sufficient resources to re-open them. Our own experience, supported by independent research, is that many clients who require assistance will not receive it if aid is not available in their own communities.

- Inadequate duty counsel services

  Duty counsel provide assistance to accused persons who are making their first appearance in court. Although duty counsel services are provided in many courts in the province, a number of courts with smaller volumes still do not have this assistance. Absence of duty counsel means that many accused persons may be unrepresented when they are seeking release pending trial, and do not have access to legal advice before entering a plea.

- Reduced ability to provide information about the law

  The *Legal Services Society Act* requires the Society to ensure that education, advice and information about the law are provided for the people of British Columbia. Because of the need to shift resources to provide unrepresented litigants with materials on how to represent themselves in court, this objective has been undermined.

- Implementation of Task Force recommendations remains goal

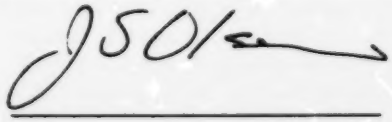
  The Society continues to have as its goal the implementation of major recommendations of the Attorney General's Task Force of 1984. During the past year the Society has worked closely with representatives of the Law Society of British Columbia and the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Bar Association to attempt to move toward the implementation of task force recommendations.

One result of the collaboration between the Bar and the Legal Services Society has been the formal support of the Law Society and Canadian Bar Association for the pro bono program. Under this program lawyers take on one legal aid case each per year in the civil and administrative law areas and act for the client free of charge. Disbursements are paid for by the Legal Services Society. The support of the Bar for this program will enable the Society to provide representation for clients in areas of law where clients would otherwise receive no assistance.

Working with representatives of the community of Fort Nelson, the Society was successful in obtaining a special grant from the federal government to provide full-time paralegal services in the Fort Nelson area. The grant is for a period of one year but is expected to be renewed in 1987 and 1988.

In spite of limited resources, this past year has seen a major increase in the number of clients receiving assistance in the family law area. In addition to the representation services that we are able to offer, we have, by using volunteer training programs, been able to offer assistance to prepare people with family law cases who must appear in court on their own.

In the area of public legal services it is clear that the needs are great, and the resources limited. Although there is a need to persuade government to provide sufficient financial support to deliver the legal services recommended by the Attorney General's Task Force, the challenge to use existing resources as effectively as possible will continue.



*Jack Olsen*
*Acting Executive Director*

# Board of Directors 1985/1986*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Robert Johnston**<br>**Chairman** | Lawyer, Victoria |
| **Leonard T. Doust**<br>**Vice-chairman** | Lawyer, Vancouver |
| **Mr. Justice J.C. Bouck** | Justice of the B.C. Supreme Court, Vancouver |
| **Loretta Chaperon** | Lawyer, Victoria |
| **Peggy Drury** | Blind Bay |
| **Ace Henderson** | Lawyer, Vancouver |
| **Lois Hollstedt** | Executive Director, YWCA, Vancouver |
| **T.E. La Liberte** | Lawyer, Vancouver |
| **His Honour William Ostler** | Retired, Victoria |
| **David W. Ramsay** | Lawyer, Prince George |
| **Rosemary Supernault** | Courtworker, Burns Lake |
| **David W.H. Tupper** | Lawyer, Vancouver |
| **Jeanne Watchuk** | Lawyer, Vancouver |


## Acknowledgements

The Legal Services Society wishes to acknowledge the funding that it generously receives from the Provincial Government and from the Law Foundation of British Columbia.

In addition, the Government of Canada contributes significantly to the cost of criminal legal aid through federal/provincial cost-sharing programs.


*The Legal Services Society Act provides for the appointment of 14 members of the Board of Directors, seven appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in council and seven appointed by the Law Society of British Columbia in consultation with the Executive of the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

# Representation Services Provided in 1985/86

## Types of problems covered

The mandate of the Legal Services Society is set out in section 3(2) of the *Legal Services Society Act*. The Society is required to provide legal representation services to a qualifying individual who:

a) is a defendant in criminal proceedings that could lead to his imprisonment;
b) may be imprisoned or confined through civil proceedings;
c) is or may be a party to a proceeding respecting a domestic dispute that affects his physical or mental safety or health or that of his children; or
d) has a legal problem that threatens
   i) his family's physical or mental safety or health;
   ii) his ability to feed, clothe and provide shelter for himself and his dependants;
   or
   iii) his livelihood.

As a result of the *Mountain* decision in 1982, the provincial government has agreed to provide sufficient funds to the Legal Services Society to provide this statutory minimum of service.

In criminal matters, counsel is provided for all indictable matters; for summary conviction matters where the accused is likely going to be imprisoned as a result of the charge he or she is facing; for charges under the *Young Offenders Act* where the youth is eligible; and for proceedings under the *Extradition Act*.

In family and other civil matters, each applicant's situation is assessed individually. If the matter is an urgent family matter, counsel is provided. The family coverage also includes representation for parents under the *Family and Child Services Act* and other urgent matrimonial matters under the *Divorce Act* and *Family Relations Act*.

Even at this level of service many people who need assistance are not getting help because their situation does not come within the strict urgency test.

The Society received 71,134 applications for legal aid in 1985/86. Of these, 32,074 were for criminal matters, 18,626 were for family matters and 20,434 were for other civil law matters.

In 1985/86 the Legal Services Society approved private Bar coverage for 22,982 criminal matters, 7,037 family matters, and 547 other civil law matters, for a total of 30,566. Staff lawyers handled 1,765 criminal matters, 1,955 family matters and 5,149 other civil files. Another 742 *Young Offenders Act* applicants were placed with private Bar lawyers at the direction of a Youth Court judge. (See the Table at page 27.)

## Who receives service

In determining who will receive legal representation services, the Society imposes a financial eligibility guideline which sets a limit of income based on family size and the size of the population centre in which the applicant resides. These limits are based on the Statistics Canada low income guidelines.

Because of cuts to funding in 1982, the Society abandoned its flexible tests for eligibility, which found persons financially eligible for legal aid when requiring them to pay legal fees would impair their ability to provide themselves and their dependants with the essentials necessary to keep them adequately fed, clothed and sheltered and living together as a family.

Those not financially eligible for services may nevertheless be given some assistance if the needed services cannot be obtained from another source. Every effort is made to give as much legal information and advice as possible to any eligible persons who cannot afford a lawyer.

## How services are provided

### Private Bar

Family and criminal matters can be referred to members of the private Bar who are reimbursed from a tariff of fees.

Other civil matters can be referred on the basis that the lawyer in private practice agrees to act without a fee. In 1985/86, over 800 lawyers volunteered through a Canadian Bar Association initiative to provide these "pro bono" services. The contribution the private Bar makes in this way to the services provided to clients is invaluable.

A client must apply to a Legal Services Society office or an area director (which could be a community law office or a lawyer in private practice), where the client's eligibility is assessed. A referral

is then made to a lawyer in private practice or a staff lawyer. The solicitor/client relationship is the same as if the client had retained a lawyer privately.

Tariff fees for private lawyers acting on legal aid cases are significantly below what lawyers would receive if they were acting in a similar case, on a private basis. There has been no increase to the tariff since 1981. In 1982 fees were reduced by 12.5 per cent due to funding cuts. In 1985 the Law Foundation provided sufficient funding to restore the 12.5 per cent cut for six months. B.C. lawyers made a substantial contribution to legal aid in 1985/86 through accepting below-market fees.

## Duty counsel

Duty counsel are staff lawyers, or lawyers retained from private practice, who are available in the courts to advise accused persons held in custody.

In addition, duty counsel ensure that the person applies for legal aid; that bail applications are made on behalf of the accused person, when appropriate; that the accused is represented upon sentencing if the accused decides to plead guilty; and that the accused is represented in cases where the Crown is seeking a psychiatric remand or a further remand in custody. Where possible, duty counsel also give advice to and appear on behalf of accused persons who are not in custody, but are making their first appearance in court.

Duty counsel are provided in adult criminal courts in the following areas: Abbotsford, Alert Bay, Alexis Creek, Anahim Lake, Bella Bella, Bella Coola, Burnaby, Campbell River, Cassiar/Lower Post, Chetwynd, Chilliwack, Cloverdale, Coquitlam, Courtenay, Clearbrook, Creston, Dawson Creek, Delta, Fernie, Fort Nelson, Fort St. James, Fort St. John, Hope, Houston, Hudson Hope, Kamloops, Kelowna, Kimberley, Langley, Maple Ridge, Matsqui, Mission, Nanaimo, Nelson, New Westminster, 100 Mile House, Parksville, Penticton, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Powell River, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel, Rossland, Smithers, Sparwood, Surrey, Tahsis, Trail, Ucluelet, Vancouver, Vernon and Victoria. Duty counsel is provided through native Community Law Offices in Masset, Queen Charlotte City, Burns Lake, Hazelton and Merritt.

Juvenile duty counsel is also provided in courts in Vancouver, Surrey, Victoria, Prince George, Coquitlam and Kelowna. In other areas, regular duty counsel assist with *Young Offenders Act* matters.

## Branch Offices, Area Directors, Community Law Offices, Native Community Law Offices & Native Friendship Centres

The Legal Services Society operates branch offices in a number of communities throughout the province. Staff lawyers, secretary/legal assistants, and, in some offices, paralegals administer the tariff and duty counsel programs. In addition they provide a wide range of legal services to qualified applicants, particularly in areas of law not covered by the Legal Services Society tariff.

Branch offices are located in Burnaby, Campbell River, Chilliwack, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Nelson, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Surrey, Vancouver and Williams Lake.

In communities where there is no Legal Services Society branch office, an area director, a community law office or a private lawyer administers the tariff programs and gives summary advice on non-tariff matters. Area directors are located in Abbotsford, Burns Lake, Chetwynd, Cranbrook, Delta, Duncan, Gibsons, Golden, Hazelton, Kaslo, Langley, Lillooet, Maple Ridge, Merritt, Nakusp, Revelstoke, Richmond, Salmon Arm, Smithers, Squamish, Terrace, Vernon and Whitehorse.

The Legal Services funds a number of independent societies throughout the province, which run community law offices and Native community law offices. The offices are staffed by legal information counsellors and secretary/legal assistants, with approximately half the offices employing a staff lawyer and the other half making use of a lawyer in private practice to act as a consultant and supervisor. Most community law offices and Native community law offices administer the legal aid tariff for their area and provide duty counsel services.

The offices provide a wide range of legal services for their communities. The societies draw on their local knowledge to assess needs and set priorities and to develop programs which are particular to the needs of their communities. Community law offices and Native community law offices provide public legal education and community

development services. Native community law offices also offer special services in Native law cases.

Community law offices are located in Abbotsford, New Westminster, Penticton, Powell River, Quesnel and Victoria. Native community law offices are located in Burns Lake, Hazelton, Masset, Merritt and Skidegate.

In addition, the Native Programs Department funds legal information counsellors in Friendship Centres in Fort St. John, Smithers and Port Alberni. The counsellors provide client services, do some court work, hold legal information workshops and take part in community development.

### Special Programs

- **Vancouver Community Legal Assistance**

The Legal Services Society partially funds the programs of the Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society. The Society provides a lawyer to supervise the Law Students' Legal Advice Clinic in greater Vancouver, runs the Mental Patients' Advocacy Project at Riverview Mental Hospital, and provides direct services through its staff at its main office.

- **Elizabeth Fry Society of B.C.**

The Legal Services Society also partially funds the courtworker services of the Elizabeth Fry Society in Vancouver, which provides community access to women's correctional institutions and counselling services.

- **Prison Project**

The Society provides special services to prisoners in institutions in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley through paralegals and lawyers based primarily in Abbotsford. These special services ensure that prisoners can have access to the ordinary services that other citizens can look to for assistance, as well as ensuring that legal assistance is available for some of their unique problems.

- **Do-Your-Own Divorce**

In the Vancouver area, the Law Students' Legal Advice program prepares documents and the Society funds a lawyer to help clients do their own divorce under the *Divorce Act*. Approximately 150 persons were assisted by this program in 1985/86.

# Information and Education Services Provided in 1985/86

## Types of Services Provided

The *Legal Services Society Act* provides that the Society shall provide education, advice and information about the law to the people of British Columbia. The purpose of the Society's information and education services is to facilitate equal access to the law and to reinforce public understanding of and support for the rule of law. Through an increased ability to understand the law and legal process, the public will be able to exercise their rights and assume their responsibilities.

The Society's information and education services increase the public's ability to identify and prevent or avoid potential legal problems and to know when and how to obtain legal services. The services also increase the public's ability to help themselves to resolve legal problems, in appropriate cases.

The Society provides these services through its Legal Information Services Department. The Department has three programs — the Schools Program, the Public Legal Education Program and the Library Services Program — and a Publications Branch. The Society also provides information and education services to Native people through its Native Programs Department's funding of public legal education programs.

The Legal Information Services Department has responsibility for providing the public, the provincial Bar, and the Society's funders with information about the Society's services.

The Department distributes audiovisual and print materials to the general public and to its funded agencies. In 1985/86, the Publications Branch produced 45 publications for the Society. The Department distributed over 85,000 materials. The current publications catalogue of the Society can be obtained by writing to the Publications Clerk, Legal Services Society, 300 - 1140 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4G1.

## How Services Were Provided

### Schools

Services were provided to schools by the Schools Program of the Legal Services Society. In order to ensure that teachers are able to give students an awareness of their rights and responsibilities, the Schools Program provided curriculum materials, a newsletter, and teacher training. Liaison activities were also carried out to assist the Ministry of Education and other organizations to provide law-related education programs to the school system.

In 1985/86 the Society distributed 33 educational audiovisual and curriculum materials to the schools system of British Columbia. New titles included a revision of the Casebook to introduce the teaching of the case method in areas of contract, criminal, human rights, labour and landlord/tenant law. The Courtwatcher's Manual was also completely revised.

Five issues of the Schools Program Newsletter were produced on the themes of workers' compensation, legal rights of Native women, mental patients' rights, student rights and custody. Over 15,000 copies of the Newsletter were sent to teachers, librarians, and others involved in law and education in the province.

Workshops for consumer education teachers on labour law and infant contracts were held in six regions of the province. Workshops on the *Young Offenders Act* were also provided upon request throughout the province.

The Legal Services Society brought together a committee of Law 11 teachers to review the state of the curriculum and survey the views of Law 11 teachers throughout the province. A report of the survey results and the conclusions of the committee was submitted to the Ministry of Education in November, 1985. The report recommended that the Law 11 curriculum be extensively revised and that an up-to-date textbook be provided for teaching this social studies elective.

The Schools Program also brought together a committee of advisors to review the new social studies curriculum for grades 8 to 11 in order to indicate to teachers how law-related principles could be taught within the curriculum.

### Libraries

The Library Services Program of the Society provides services to librarians and public libraries in order to make law-related materials more accessible to the public.

In 1985/86 a total of 31 public libraries or library systems were funded for a total of $30,600. As a result of this program, 73 library collections of differing sizes were maintained across British Columbia.

Through a training program, the Library Services Program ensures that librarians become skilled in legal reference and referral, and that legal collections are maintained as accurate and useful sources of legal information. During 1985/86, 24 workshops were conducted throughout the province for librarians, Legal Services Society staff, and a variety of groups and organizations.

### General Public

Through the Public Legal Education Program, the Library Services Program and the Native Programs Department, legal information and education services are provided to the general public of British Columbia.

The Library Program operates the Legal Resource Centre which provides a reference facility and the Law Line — a telephone information service — so that all citizens can obtain current and accurate information about the law and the legal services available to them.

In 1985/86 the Resource Centre answered 19,153 information requests. The Law Line telephone service averaged 13.7 calls per hour. About 20 per cent of Law Line callers also received the additional Lawyer Referral Service in co-operation with the Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch). In addition, the Resource Centre also circulated 883 items from the audio-visual collection to schools and community groups.

The Public Legal Education Program provides funding and support services for community-based organizations, branch offices and funded agencies. The resources are focused on filling gaps in representation services through the development and distribution of self-help materials and the training of volunteers working with self-help groups. In 1985/86 a total of 37 contracts were made to carry out this work.

### Special Projects

- Native Public Legal Education Programs

The Native Programs Department, in conjunction with the Public Legal Education program, funded 10 public legal education programs for Native people. Projects funded included workshops in Terrace, Cranbrook, Port Alberni, Port Hardy, Kelowna, Smithers and Lillooet, as well as a Native law

column in *Kahtou,* a comic book on unemployment insurance developed by the Gitksan-Wet-Suwet'en Tribal Council, and a pamphlet and video project by the Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council.

The Native Programs Department also directly funded seven public legal education projects, including workshops in Burns Lake, Fort St. John, Hazelton, Lytton and Vancouver, as well as two video projects.

- Family Court

In order to fill gaps in representation services provided to applicants and respondents in family court, the Public Legal Education program continued to distribute materials and supported groups to assist unrepresented clients. In 1985/86, 15,000 materials were distributed to family court users. Family court users were able to get assistance in preparing their cases from community workers in twenty-two communities.

- Poverty Law

Resources were provided to 14 groups in the province who work with poor people to help them understand their rights and responsibilities as set out under the *G.A.I.N. Act,* workers' compensation coverage, unemployment insurance standards and human rights legislation.

In addition, several advocacy training sessions were run to train advocates working with member groups of the B.C. Coalition of the Disabled.

- English as a Second Language.

The Public Legal Education Program funded a number of groups to produce materials and workshops for people whose first language is not English. Information programs were developed in seven languages, and materials were produced for use in English as a Second Language/Adult Basic Education programs.

- Other Materials

The Public Legal Education Program funded groups to revise or develop print materials for provincial distribution.

The print materials were designed to help people to identify and avoid legal problems, and to provide them with step-by-step guides to legal procedures, to help them solve legal problems. The materials included some information for accused in summary conviction matters, and for inmates dealing with the prison system, as well as for people facing family, administrative or civil law problems.

In 1985/86, over 65,000 copies of materials on a variety of topics were distributed.

In addition, the Public Legal Education Society received financial support for booklets covering areas of law affecting Legal Services Society clients.

The Library Services Program distributed materials which assist librarians in purchasing legal information materials and assist the general public in conducting legal research.

The Native Programs Department published materials which help Native people in understanding their legal rights and responsibilities. Subjects covered in 1985/86 include unemployment insurance, Native fishing rights and responsibilities, taxation for Native people, family assets on reserves, and family property on reserves.

# Applications Received:
April 1, 1985 - March 31, 1986

## Legal Services Society Branch Offices

| Location | Criminal Matters | Family Law | Other Civil Matters | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Burnaby | 2545 | 786 | 405 | 3736 |
| Burnaby Public Defender | 376 | — | — | 376 |
| Campbell River | 796 | 768 | 545 | 2109 |
| Chilliwack | 1064 | 572 | 514 | 2150 |
| Dawson Creek | 379 | 260 | 231 | 870 |
| Ft. St. John | 342 | 195 | 133 | 670 |
| Kamloops Law Centre | 1340 | 1157 | 1562 | 4059 |
| Kelowna | 644 | 586 | 586 | 1816 |
| Langley Paralegal | 471 | 239 | 125 | 835 |
| Nanaimo | 1152 | 687 | 335 | 2174 |
| Nelson | 381 | 416 | 220 | 1017 |
| Prince George | 1823 | 989 | 343 | 3155 |
| Prince Rupert | 384 | 231 | 169 | 784 |
| Prison Project | 140 | 50 | 549 | 739 |
| Surrey | 1350 | 1039 | 409 | 2798 |
| Vancouver | 9120 | 2428 | 2818 | 14376 |
| Vancouver Administration | 315 | 51 | 33 | 399 |
| Williams Lake | 414 | 279 | 271 | 964 |
| Offices Subtotal | 23036 | 10733 | 9258 | 43027 |

## Community Law Offices, Native Community Law Offices and Friendship Centres

| Location | Criminal Matters | Family Law | Other Civil Matters | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abbotsford | 959 | 716 | 776 | 2451 |
| Burns Lake | 161 | 91 | 247 | 489 |
| Ft. St. John Friendship Centre | 3 | 22 | 119 | 144 |
| Hazelton | 165 | 139 | 351 | 655 |
| Masset | 64 | 72 | 409 | 545 |
| Merritt | 199 | 166 | 479 | 844 |
| Mission Friendship Centre | — | — | 3 | 3 |
| Nanaimo | 1 | 12 | 420 | 433 |
| New Westminster | 16 | 1214 | 2230 | 3460 |
| Northshore Information | 9 | 364 | 566 | 939 |
| Penticton | 499 | 430 | 972 | 1851 |
| Port Alberni Friendship Centre | 16 | 20 | 65 | 101 |
| Powell River | 273 | 227 | 408 | 908 |
| Quesnel | 439 | 254 | 405 | 1098 |
| Skidegate | 139 | 79 | 1050 | 1268 |
| Smithers Friendship Centre | 197 | 65 | 40 | 302 |
| Victoria | 2488 | 2003 | 1944 | 6432 |
| Agencies Subtotal | 5578 | 5874 | 19481 | 21933 |

## Area Directors

| Criminal Matters | Family Law | Other Civil Matters | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 2000 | 674 | 6075 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL (All Offices)** | **32015** | **18607** | **20413** | **71035** |

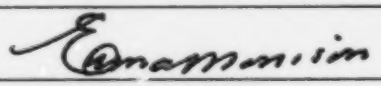
# Auditor's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Legal Services Society, and

To the Attorney-General, Province of British Columbia

I have examined the balance sheet of the Legal Services Society as at 31 March 1986 and the statement of income, expenditures and surplus for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society as at 31 March 1986 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 2 to the financial statements, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Victoria, British Columbia
5 June 1986

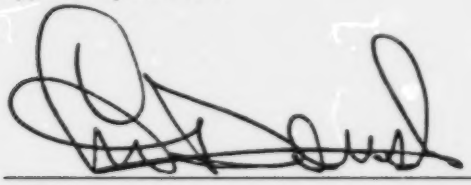
Erma Morrison, F.C.A.
Auditor General

## Balance Sheet as at March 31, 1986

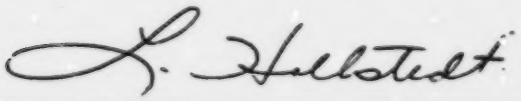
| **Assets** | **1986** | **1985** |
|---|---|---|
| Cash and term deposit | $1,043,236 | $ 826,450 |
| Accounts receivable | 107,911 | 24,895 |
| Due from the Province of British Columbia | 800,000 | 420,000 |
| Grants recoverable | 1,549 | 3,126 |
| Prepaid expenses | 60,600 | 60,727 |
| | $2,013,296 | $1,335,198 |
| **Liabilities** | | |
| Accounts payable — general | $ 306,117 | $ 146,448 |
| — tarifi | 1,932,432 | 988,041 |
| Professional staff benefit plan | 226,824 | 187,515 |
| Deferred income (note 3) | 518,763 | — |
| | 2,984,136 | 1,322,004 |
| **Surplus (Deficit)** | (970,840) | 13,194 |
| | $2,013,296 | $1,335,198 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board:



L. Doust
Chairman



L. Hollstedt
Vice-chairman

## Statement of Income, Expenditures and Surplus for the Year Ended March 31, 1986

| INCOME | 1986 | 1985 |
|---|---|---|
| **Grants** | | |
| Province of British Columbia | $14,223,674 | $15,920,000 |
| Law Foundation — regular | 3,000,000 | 2,000,000 |
| — supplement (note 3) | 81,237 | — |
| | 17,304,911 | 17,920,000 |
| **Other Income** | | |
| Interest | 178,067 | 166,943 |
| Legal costs recovered from clients | 97,427 | 133,569 |
| Publications | 14,243 | 16,571 |
| Miscellaneous | 3,004 | 5,255 |
| | 292,741 | 322,338 |
| | 17,597,652 | 18,242,338 |
| **EXPENDITURES** | | |
| Area directors | 82,718 | 62,224 |
| Board expenses | 27,071 | 45,808 |
| Computer | 86,602 | 90,081 |
| Duty counsel | 589,413 | 494,123 |
| Grants and contracted services | 2,141,209 | 2,034,525 |
| Libraries | 92,728 | 86,361 |
| Miscellaneous | 91,127 | 68,243 |
| Office | 461,146 | 400,261 |
| Premises | 441,901 | 486,737 |
| Publications | 96,737 | 73,793 |
| Salaries and benefits | 4,472,333 | 4,324,020 |
| Tariffs | 9,575,605 | 8,232,606 |
| Transcripts | 258,874 | — |
| Travel | 164,222 | 165,638 |
| | 18,581,686 | 16,564,420 |
| **Excess (Deficiency) of Income over Expenditures for the Year** | ( 984,034) | 1,677,918 |
| **Surplus (Deficit) at Beginning of Year** | 13,194 | (1,664,724) |
| **Surplus (Deficit) at End of Year** | $( 970,840) | $ 13,194 |

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 1986

**1. Organizational objectives**

Under the Legal Services Act the objects of the Society are to ensure that:

(a) services ordinarily provided by a lawyer are afforded to individuals who would not otherwise receive them because of financial or other reasons; and

(b) education, advice and information about law are provided for the people of British Columbia.

**2. Significant accounting policies**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles except that property and equipment are recorded as operating expenditures at the time of acquisition.

**3. Deferred income**

As a restraint measure, the Society reduced tariff fees by 12.5% on all referrals made after September 30, 1982.

The Law Foundation has given the Society a grant of $600,000 that is to be used solely to eliminate the 12.5% tariff fee reduction on referrals made over a period of about six months, starting January 1, 1986. The grant is being taken into revenue only to the extent that monies are expended on elimination of the 12.5% tariff fee reduction. The balance unexpended at March 31, 1986 is being shown as a deferred liability on the balance sheet.

**4. Commitments**

(a) The Society has commitments under long-term operating leases for the following:

| | Office Premises | Computer Equipment | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1987 | $194,879 | $ 59,029 | $253,908 |
| 1988 | 83,550 | 55,302 | 138,852 |
| 1989 | 59,515 | 20,606 | 80,121 |
| 1990 | 9,481 | — | 9,481 |
| 1991 | — | — | — |
| | $347,425 | $134,937 | $482,362 |

(b) The Society estimates that the total cost of authorized legal work which has been neither completed nor billed as at March 31, 1986 will amount to $4.9 million (1985 - $3.7 million).

# Schedules for the Year Ended March 31, 1986

| | CLIENT SERVICES | | LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Administration Training, Funded Groups & Tariff | Branches | Administration & Publications | Schools Program | Public Legal Education | Library Programs |
| **EXPENDITURES** | | | | | | |
| **Area directors** | 82,718 | | | | | |
| **Board expenses** | | | | | | |
| **Computer** | | 1,208 | | | | 3,521 |
| **Duty counsel** | 589,413 | | | | | |
| **Grants and contract services** | 1,055,861 | 31,247 | | 36,309 | 166,266 | 41,942 |
| **Libraries** | | | | | | 92,728 |
| **Miscellaneous** | 37,868 | 32,444 | | 4,423 | 964 | 3,124 |
| **Office** | 4,666 | 264,133 | 58 | 4,677 | 616 | 2,434 |
| **Premises** | | 353 265 | | | | |
| **Publications** | | | 96,737 | | | |
| **Salaries and benefits** | 329,998 | 2,666,130 | 91,732 | 72,771 | 140,205 | 200,279 |
| **Tariffs** | 9,535,988 | 39,617 | | | | |
| **Transcripts** | 258,874 | | | | | |
| **Travel** | 73,807 | 62,919 | 344 | 2,653 | 1,195 | 1,948 |
| **TOTALS** | 11,969,193 | 3,450,963 | 188,871 | 120,833 | 309,246 | 345,976 |

| | NATIVE PROGRAMS | RESEARCH & PLANNING | GENERAL ADMINISTRATION | 1986 TOTAL | 1985 TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EXPENDITURES** | | | | | |
| **Area directors** | | | | 82,718 | 62,224 |
| **Board expenses** | | | 27,071 | 27,071 | 45,808 |
| **Computer** | | | 81,873 | 86,602 | 90,081 |
| **Duty counsel** | | | | 589,413 | 494,123 |
| **Grants and contract services** | 790,684 | 2,100 | 16,800 | 2,141,209 | 2,034,525 |
| **Libraries** | | | | 92,728 | 86,361 |
| **Miscellaneous** | 514 | | 11,790 | 91,127 | 68,243 |
| **Office** | 597 | 20 | 183,945 | 461,146 | 400,261 |
| **Premises** | | | 88,636 | 441,901 | 486,737 |
| **Publications** | | | | 96,737 | 73,793 |
| **Salaries and benefits** | 112,815 | 67,684 | 790,719 | 4,472,333 | 4,324,020 |
| **Tariffs** | | | | 9,575,605 | 8,232,606 |
| **Transcripts** | | | | 258,874 | — |
| **Travel** | 13,819 | 145 | 7,392 | 164,222 | 165,638 |
| **TOTALS** | 918,429 | 69,949 | 1,208,226 | 18,581,686 | 16,564,420 |

# Legal Services Society Branch Offices

**Burnaby-New Westminster**
120-5021 Kingsway, Burnaby
V5H 4A5 437-4432

**Campbell River**
No. 2-912 Island Highway
V9W 5A7 287-9521

**Chilliwack**
No. 5-9360 Mill Street
V2P 4N2 792-7264

**Dawson Creek**
Unit 9, 1405-102nd Avenue
V1G 2E1 782-5911/2

**Fort St. John**
B9822-101st Avenue
V1J 2B2 785-5674/5

**Kamloops Regional Law Centre**
No. 200-142 Victoria Street
V2C 1Z7 374-7777

**Kelowna**
1262 St. Paul Street
V1Y 2C9 763-8804

**Nanaimo**
No. 2-149 Wallace Street
V9R 5B2 753-0271

**Nelson**
550 Stanley Street
V1L 1N2 352-3147

**Prince George**
302-1488 Fourth Avenue
V2L 4Y2 562-4445

**Prince Rupert**
737 West 2nd Avenue
V8J 1H4 627-1364

**Surrey**
No. 308, 15225-104th Avenue
V3R 6Y8 584-8535

**Vancouver**
No. 2-195 Alexander Street
V6A 1N3 687-1831

**Williams Lake**
316-540 Borland Street
V2G 1R8 392-2941

**Prison Services Project**
2406 Montrose Avenue
Abbotsford 859-7681
V2S 3S9 or toll-free 530-3514

**Langley Paralegal Project**
213-20226 Fraser Highway
V3A 4E6 530-5811

# Community Law Offices

**Abbotsford Community Services Society**
2406 Montrose Avenue 859-7681
V2S 3S9 or toll-free 530-3514

**The Nanaimo Community Assistance Society**
149 Wallace Street
V9R 5B2 753-0271

**Westminster Community Legal Services Society**
805-12th Street
New Westminster
V3M 4K2 524-0381

**Penticton Legal Services**
Suite 103-304 Martin Street
V2A 5K4 493-0210

**Powell River Legal Services**
7053 Glacier Street
V8A 5J7 485-9871

**Quesnel Human Rights & Civil Liberties Association**
121 Barlow Avenue
V2J 2B8 992-8391

**The Law Centre Association of Victoria**
3rd Floor-1221 Broad Street
V8W 2A4 388-4516

**Note:** Addresses are as of March 31, 1986. For current addresses, consult your phone book.

# Native Legal Information Offices

**Burns Lake Yinkandineé Keyakh Law Centre Society**
P.O. Box 8000
492 Yellowhead Highway, #16
V0J 1E0 692-7534

**Conayt Friendship Centre**
P.O. Box 1989
1988 Quilchena Avenue
Merritt
V0K 2B0 378-4114
(To February, 1986)

**Fort St. John Indian Friendship Centre**
10208-95th Avenue
V1J 1J2 785-8566

**Haida Counselling & Legal Assistance Society**
P.O. Box 37
Queen Charlotte City
V0T 1S0 559-8306
*and*
P.O. Box 130
Masset
V0M 1M0 626-3925

**Merritt Community Law Centre**
Box 1810
1955 Quilchena Avenue
Merritt
V0K 2B0 378-6112
(From February, 1986)

**Port Alberni Friendship Centre**
P.O. Box 23
3178 Second Avenue
V9Y 7M6 724-3013

**Smithers Indian Friendship Centre**
P.O. Box 2920
V0J 2N0 847-3525

**Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society**
P.O. Box 130
Hazelton
V0J 1Y0 842-5218

**Note:** Addresses are as of March 31, 1986. For current addresses, consult your phone book.